NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

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REGIONAL AND STATE TRENDS FOR ARTISTS: 1970-1990

According to 1990 Census occupational statistics recently released by the Bureau of the Census, the number of artists in the United States increased by 54% between 1980 and 1990, from 1,085,693 to 1,671,278. All four regions of the country participated in this increase, as did all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

- The number of artists in the Northeast increased by 45.5% between 1980 and 1990, from 282,165 to 410,601. The Northeast had 29.6% of the artist population in 1970, the highest of the four regions. It dropped to second in 1980 with 26% and had only 24.6% of the artist population in 1990, the third largest amount. The Northeast also had the smallest total labor force of the four regions in 1990.

- The number of artists in the Midwest increased by 48.4% between 1980 and 1990, from 229,838 to 341,129. The Midwest, like the Northeast, also fell in its percentage of all artists, from 24.1% in 1970 and 21.2% in 1980, to 20.4% in 1990, making it the region with the smallest artist population.

- The number of artists in the South increased by 60.2% between 1980 and 1990, from 293,739 to 470,565. The South has consistently increased its proportion of the total U.S. artist population, climbing from 24.3% in 1970 to 27.1% in 1980, to 28.2% in 1990, making it the region with the largest artist population. The South had the largest total labor force of the four regions in 1990.

- The number of artists in the West increased by 60.4% between 1980 and 1990, from 279,951 to 448,983. Like the South, the West has increased its proportion of artists over the past 20 years, from 22.1% in 1970 (the smallest of the four) to 25.8% in 1980, to 26.9% in 1990, the second largest amount.

- The West had the highest proportion of artists in its civilian labor force in 1990 (1.721%). The West also had the highest proportion in 1980 (1.381%) and 1970 (1.193%). The South, which had the largest number of artists in 1990, had the lowest concentration, with 1.147% of its civilian labor force comprised of artists. The Northeast had the second largest proportion of artists (1.594%) and the Midwest the third largest (1.152%) in 1990, both of which are generally consistent with their positions in 1970 and 1980.

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- The artist population more than doubled in 33 states between 1980 and 1990. More than 20,000 artists were found in the civilian labor forces of 23 states in 1990, compared with 15 in 1980 and 10 in 1970.

- Approximately half of the persons in the artistic labor force in 1990 were concentrated in seven states: California (17%); New York (11%); Texas (6%); Florida (5%); Illinois (4.5%); Pennsylvania (4%); and New Jersey (3%). California and New York State together had nearly 30% of the artist labor force in 1990, as they did in both 1980 and 1970.

- The proportion of artists in a state's total civilian labor force gives an indication of the extent of artists' participation in the economy of the state. In these terms, New York State leads the nation with 2.06% of its total civilian labor force consisting of artists, followed by California (1.92%), Hawaii (1.87%), and Massachusetts (1.59%). While the highest ratio in the attached table is for the District of Columbia (2.63%), D.C. is more appropriately compared with other cities on this measure rather than states.

- In 1990, 36 states had 1% or more of their civilian labor force comprised of artists, compared with 16 states in 1980 and only 9 states in 1970.

- Between 1980 and 1990, four states showed increases of 80% or more in their total artist population: New Hampshire (99.6%); Maine (96.6%); Vermont (88.6%); and Georgia (85.5%). Of these, only Georgia ranked in the top half of the states according to total number of artists. Among the 10 states with the largest artist populations, Florida showed the greatest increase, 76.3%.

Table 1. All artists in labor force[1] by state of residence: 1970 to 1990

	1990			1980-90	1980			1979-80	1970		
	Number artists	Percent of labor force	Rank by % in labor force	Percent increase	Number artists	Percent of labor force	Rank by % in labor force	Percent increase	Number artists	Percent of labor force	Rank by % in labor force
United States	1,671,278	1.365%		53.9%	1,085,693	1.050%		47.3%	736,960	0.923%	
California	285,633	1.924%	2	62.0%	176,321	1.559%	3	62.6%	108,437	1.362%	3
New York	183,360	2.061%	1	32.5%	138,424	1.746%	1	28.3%	107,916	1.458%	2
Texas	96,001	1.180%	26	55.3%	61,802	0.944%	21	76.7%	34,969	0.816%	21
Florida	85,161	1.390%	14	76.3%	48,302	1.152%	10	93.5%	24,960	0.993%	10
Illinois	75,822	1.321%	19	50.2%	50,467	0.932%	22	22.5%	41,211	0.900%	16
Pennsylvania	65,327	1.140%	29	50.7%	43,363	0.817%	32	23.4%	35,137	0.748%	29
New Jersey	56,713	1.390%	13	55.3%	36,510	1.044%	14	27.3%	28,686	0.967%	12
Ohio	56,305	1.076%	33	41.6%	39,768	0.809%	33	22.8%	32,378	0.767%	27
Michigan	55,412	1.235%	21	50.2%	36,888	0.884%	23	24.4%	29,660	0.862%	18
Massachusetts	51,412	1.593%	4	59.6%	32,223	1.150%	11	37.1%	23,499	0.985%	11
Virginia	42,419	1.345%	17	71.2%	24,775	1.009%	16	62.4%	15,253	0.866%	17
Georgia	37,707	1.158%	27	85.5%	20,330	0.826%	29	72.6%	11,776	0.654%	37
Washington	37,296	1.540%	7	62.3%	22,974	1.192%	7	83.0%	12,553	0.941%	13
Maryland	35,686	1.383%	15	70.0%	20,990	1.025%	15	22.5%	17,135	1.080%	5
North Carolina	34,091	1.007%	36	65.8%	20,561	0.750%	38	62.7%	12,640	0.617%	41
Minnesota	31,169	1.353%	16	59.7%	19,512	0.982%	18	50.5%	12,967	0.850%	19
Missouri	28,478	1.136%	31	50.3%	18,951	0.844%	25	33.5%	14,199	0.772%	25
Tennessee	28,202	1.181%	24	59.2%	17,714	0.864%	24	67.0%	10,607	0.698%	33
Wisconsin	27,985	1.117%	32	51.9%	18,429	0.818%	31	38.4%	13,320	0.753%	28
Connecticut	27,453	1.542%	6	59.5%	17,211	1.113%	12	28.4%	13,404	1.034%	7
Colorado	27,327	1.585%	5	52.4%	17,930	1.255%	5	102.9%	8,838	1.028%	9
Indiana	26,280	0.949%	40	50.7%	17,439	0.684%	45	34.8%	12,941	0.617%	40
Arizona	24,421	1.425%	11	74.1%	14,023	1.189%	8	112.6%	6,597	1.032%	8
Oregon	19,539	1.394%	12	48.5%	13,157	1.065%	13	88.5%	6,978	0.836%	20
Louisiana	16,732	0.940%	41	30.5%	12,825	0.741%	39	59.9%	8,019	0.659%	36
Alabama	16,597	0.898%	45	40.9%	11,779	0.728%	40	47.9%	7,965	0.641%	39
South Carolina	15,354	0.911%	43	61.2%	9,526	0.684%	46	82.9%	5,209	0.527%	48
Kentucky	14,550	0.872%	47	39.3%	10,446	0.695%	42	52.2%	6,863	0.604%	43
Oklahoma	13,554	0.930%	42	31.5%	10,308	0.770%	35	49.7%	6,884	0.713%	32
Iowa	13,358	0.955%	39	42.2%	9,395	0.686%	44	35.8%	6,917	0.615%	42
Kansas	13,181	1.076%	34	40.6%	9,377	0.837%	26	33.4%	7,031	0.795%	24
New Mexico	10,315	1.524%	8	58.6%	6,505	1.200%	6	83.1%	3,553	1.044%	6
Hawaii	10,223	1.872%	3	51.4%	6,753	1.559%	2	84.2%	3,667	1.248%	4
Utah	9,773	1.264%	20	66.8%	5,858	0.948%	20	60.1%	3,659	0.920%	14
Nevada	9,430	1.464%	10	44.9%	6,507	1.541%	4	111.4%	3,078	1.477%	1
Mississippi	8,736	0.791%	48	41.9%	6,155	0.616%	48	60.9%	3,826	0.508%	49
Arkansas	8,290	0.785%	49	51.6%	5,468	0.585%	49	63.5%	3,344	0.488%	50
New Hampshire	7,487	1.227%	22	99.6%	3,751	0.828%	28	51.6%	2,474	0.813%	22
Maine	7,452	1.221%	23	96.6%	3,790	0.765%	36	74.6%	2,171	0.570%	45
Nebraska	7,150	0.894%	46	26.2%	5,666	0.764%	37	39.3%	4,068	0.688%	34
Rhode Island	6,935	1.333%	18	53.2%	4,527	0.992%	17	44.9%	3,124	0.807%	23
Idaho	5,351	1.137%	30	66.9%	3,207	0.773%	34	73.9%	1,844	0.681%	35
West Virginia	5,071	0.695%	50	20.1%	4,223	0.566%	50	36.6%	3,091	0.537%	47
Vermont	4,462	1.488%	9	88.6%	2,366	0.979%	19	47.9%	1,600	0.917%	15
Montana	4,424	1.181%	25	49.2%	2,966	0.833%	27	59.7%	1,857	0.715%	31
Delaware	3,332	1.021%	35	45.6%	2,288	0.822%	30	36.1%	1,681	0.769%	26
Alaska	3,102	1.158%	28	44.4%	2,148	1.181%	9	202.5%	710	0.725%	30
South Dakota	3,008	0.900%	44	52.4%	1,974	0.635%	47	37.6%	1,435	0.578%	44
North Dakota	2,981	0.987%	37	51.2%	1,972	0.687%	43	70.7%	1,155	0.541%	46
Wyoming	2,149	0.977%	38	34.1%	1,602	0.708%	41	89.8%	844	0.654%	38
District of Columbia	9,082	2.625%		45.4%	6,247	1.975%		29.3%	4,830	1.392%	

[1] In 1970 the percent of artists is calculated for the experienced civilian labor force. In 1980 and 1990 the percent of artists is calculated for the labor force presented in the Equal Employment Opportunity data file released by the Census Bureau.

Table 2. Changes since 1970 in regional distribution of artists in the United States: 1990

	United States labor force*	Artists labor force	Percent increase over the decade: United States	Percent increase over the decade: Artists	Growth index**	Percent of artists in U.S. labor force in region	Percent artists in each region
United States							
1990	122,473,499	1,671,278	18.1%	53.9%	1.00	1.365%	100.0%
1980	103,718,076	1,085,693	30.0%	47.3%	1.00	1.047%	100.0%
1970	79,801,605	736,960				0.923%	100.0%
Northeast							
1990	25,757,736	410,601	13.3%	45.5%	0.90	1.594%	24.6%
1980	22,725,483	282,165	13.7%	29.4%	0.91	1.242%	26.0%
1970	19,993,615	218,011				1.090%	29.6%
Midwest							
1990	29,603,473	341,129	8.2%	48.4%	1.12	1.152%	20.4%
1980	27,364,492	229,838	21.4%	29.6%	0.47	0.840%	21.2%
1970	22,535,875	177,282				0.787%	24.1%
South							
1990	41,030,503	470,565	23.0%	60.2%	1.04	1.147%	28.2%
1980	33,351,979	293,739	41.0%	64.1%	1.33	0.881%	27.1%
1970	23,646,862	179,052				0.757%	24.3%
West							
1990	26,081,787	448,983	28.6%	60.4%	0.89	1.721%	26.9%
1980	20,276,122	279,951	48.8%	72.2%	1.35	1.381%	25.8%
1970	13,625,253	162,615				1.193%	22.1%

* See footnote 1, Table 1.

** Calculated as Regional (Percent increase in Artists over the decade) minus (Percent increase in the Labor Force over the decade); divided by the National (Percent increase in Artists over the decade) minus (Percent increase in the Labor Force over the decade).